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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT The Ministry of Labor and Social  
Welfare in Brandenburg

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Next Review Date: 2008

1. The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

Minister: Fritz Schwob (CDU). Before 1933 he was a member of the Center Party. Recently he has been leaning away from the SED but does not let this be known.

Deputy Minister: Ministerial-Direktor Max Fischer.

The Ministry is divided into three Dezernate:

2. Department of Labor, headed by Max Fischer and consisting of the three following branches:

- 1) Employment, headed by Ministerialrat Herbert Kienast (SED), who has strongly Leninist leanings. He is about 34 years old. He is at the same time Deputy Minister under Max Fischer. Although this position was supposed to be held by a member of the CDU, this promise to the CDU was not kept. After September, Kienast was to leave for a period of two years to go to the Karl-Marx School.

Employment Compensation, which, until recently was headed by Margarete Trapp. She was removed because of her SPD tendencies and no one has yet been named to replace her. This branch is divided into two sections, one of which was headed by Oberregierungsrat Otto Brugger who, since June 1949, has been a judge of the State Labor Court. In 1945 he became Mayor of Blankenfelde in Kreis Teltow but misused his office for personal gain. He was then mixed up in a black market operation involving two members of the police who belonged to the KPD, i.e. Frönert (fnu) and Grünberg (fnu). During the trial, the two KPD men were jailed but Brugger was released. Brugger later stated that his acquittal was due entirely to his own cleverness. Brugger has been called a "Spitzel" by the RIAS broadcast.

- b. Public Assistance, although not headed by anyone at present, is supposed to be headed by a member of the CDU.

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- c. Department of Health, headed by Dr. Hermann (fnu).
- d. Department for Returned Prisoners and Refugees, headed by Friedrichs (fnu). This department is in the process of being dissolved.
- 2. In his position as Ministerialdirektor, Max Fischer receives the following extra monthly rations (BAJOKS), which are purchased in a special shop in Potsdam "am Brandenburger Tor" in the Brandenburger Str.

6 lb. meat	3 kg. white flour	1 package of soap powder
900 g. butter	2 kg. cereals	1 piece of laundry soap
500 g. sugar	200 cigarettes	1 piece of toilet soap

In addition, he receives a No. 1 ration card. He is also permitted to take three meals costing three marks per day, in the government restaurant which is open to department heads, ministers, and the minister-president. These meals consist of the following:

breakfast: soup, bread, and 10 g. of fats  
 lunch: soup, meat dish or fish, salad, and stewed fruit  
 dinner: 10 g. of fats, assorted sandwiches

The meals are served in three separate rooms. The Ministerial-Direktoren have one room, the Ministers another, and the Ministerpräsident has a room for himself.

- 3. At the State Government offices on the Friedrich-Ebert Strasse, room 202 serves as a courtroom for the NKVD, before which appear employees of the government. Thus, in 1948, Ministerialdirektor Max Fischer was called there and was required to furnish information concerning other employees, and to maintain absolute secrecy with regard to this interrogation. He was questioned with regard to special subjects such as sabotage, obstructionism, and the reliability of Fritz Ebert, Jr., Hauptabteilungsleiter Gustav Brack who is now head of the Department of Labor and Social Welfare in the DNK, Ludwig Bauer, head of the Department of Public Works in Potsdam, and Paul Bismark of the SED. Fischer was again summoned before the court in January 1949 to give further information concerning the above mentioned persons.
- 4. In June 1949, Max Fechner was visiting Bad Liebenstein in Thuringia, and was continually under the surveillance of Karl Maron. It was impossible to meet Fechner without Maron being present. Max Fischer, however, managed to speak to him alone, at which time Fechner told Fischer that he was dissatisfied with the development of the party. He was angered by the fact that he had been removed as Chairman of the Volkerat and wished to give up all his work. He did not wish, however, to return to the SPD as he considered that this party followed too much in the traces of the bourgeois parties.
- 5. The SED Betriebsgruppe in the State Government.
  - a. Chairman: Regierungsrat Habermann (fnu), who fought in Spain. He is about forty years old and a former member of the KPD. In January 1947, a theft took place in the Office of Labor and Social Welfare, in which a strong box containing 18,000 RM was stolen. Only Habermann and one office employee knew of the existence of this money. The police subsequently established the fact that the door had been smashed from the inside in order to give the impression that the room had been broken into. Habermann had a key to the premises. The investigation of the matter was not pursued but was suddenly dropped. In December 1947, Habermann embezzled about 1000 RM when acting as head of a festival committee. Herbert Fuhrmann and Kurt Simon were also connected with this fraud. Although Kurt Seibt, secretary of the SED Landesvorstand, was apprised of the matter, no measures were taken in consequence thereof.

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- b. Deputy Chairman: Otto Brugger and Richard Kaffka. The latter is about 36 years old and is a former member of the KPD. He is a refugee from Silesia, and belongs to the office of Personal Politik of the Central Secretariat of the SED.
- c. M ller (fmu), Ministerialdirektor in the Department of Industry and Commerce. Member of the LDP who has strong sympathies for the SED which are expressed in the Landtag as well as in the sessions of the Cabinet.
- d. Paul Hentschel, Ministerialdirektor and head of the Personnel Department. He fought in the Spanish civil war. He was the right-hand man of Minister of the Interior Bernhard Bechler. On 1 July 1949 he was appointed to the Office of Personal Politik of the Central Secretariat of the SED, which is headed by a man named W lk (fmu). A true KP man. Former bricklayer.
- e. Werner Lufft, Ministerialdirektor in the Ministry of the Interior.
- f. Kurt Romminger, Ministerialdirektor, former SPD man, went over to the SED.
- g. Haller (fmu), Ministerialdirektor, belongs to the CDU.
- h. H niger (fmu), about 55 years old, works in the Ministry of Justice. A former member of the SPD, he seems generally to be in agreement with the SED.
- i. Georgino (fmu), in the Ministry of Finance, former SPD man who joined the SED.
- j. Heck-Leasing (fmu), President of the Landeskredit Bank, former SPD man who does not feel at home within the SED.
- k. Paul Merker, Head of the Political Committee of the Central Secretariat of the SED, to which also belong Helmut Lehmann, Gustav Brack, Jenny Mattern, and Max Herm, the latter being a long-time Communist in the DWK.

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